

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6 and 8-17 are pending in this application. In this Reply, withdrawn claims 18-41 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice. Moreover, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 4-5 and claims 8 and 11 have been converted from dependent claims into independent claims. No new matter has been added to the application by way of these amendments.


In the Official Action, the Examiner allowed claims 13-17 and indicated that claims 5, 8, 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claims 4 and 5. Moreover, the applicants have converted allowable claims 8 and 11 – which previously depended upon claim 1 – into independent claims. These claim amendments are believed to place all of the pending claims in an allowable condition. Favorable consideration and allowance of all pending application claims is, therefore courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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